

Remarks

Claims 1-38 are pending. Claims 15-17 and 32-34 are allowed, Claims 4, 10, 21, 27, and 37-38 are objected, and 1-3, 5-9, 11-14, 18-20, 22-26, 28-31, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dufour (US Patent No. 6,351,572) in view of Kay et al (US Patent No. 6,377,269) and further in view of Hashimoto (US Patent No. 6,434,278), the cited references are hereinafter referred to as Dufour, Kay and Hashimoto, respectively.

Claims 1, 18 and 35 have been amended in the foregoing to further distinguish from the cited references. The amendments to other claims have corrected some informalities. As a result of the amendments, Claims 1-38 are pending. Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

In particular, independent claims 1, 18 and 35 have been amended to include additional feature(s) "a volumetric analysis on the sequence of mask images to determine vertices of the object in a 3D space". Supported between line 22 of page 26 and line 3 of page 27 in the Specification, the mask images, after generated, are applied by a volumetric analysis to determine vertices of the object in a 3D space so as to generate a 3D region.

The Examiner has agreed that Dufour does not disclose generating mask images by projecting the object onto a corresponding one of planes positioned virtually surrounding the object. Kay is then cited to show that such feature is disclosed therein. However, Dufour, Kay fails to suggest or teach that a volumetric analysis is applied to the mask images so generated.

With the added feature, the Applicants believe that Claims 1, 18 and 35 shall be allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Claim 1-14, 18-31 and 36-38 shall be in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is believed that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early and favorable action is being respectfully solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplementary Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (408)777-8873.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231", on Aug.

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Respectfully submitted;

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